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US-CENTRAL AFRICA

WASHINGTON (AP) -- THE UNITED STATES IS RECALLING ITS AMBASSADOR TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE FOLLOWING REPORTS THAT ABOUT 100 CHILDREN WERE KILLED AFTER THEY PROTESTED SCHOOL DRESS REQUIREMENTS.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID MONDAY THAT AMBASSADOR GOODWIN COCKE IS RETURNING TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEK ««FOR CONSULTATIONS ON U.S.-CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE RELATIONS.»»

DEPARTMENT SPOKESWOMAN SANDRA MCCARTY SAID, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, IT COULD BE ASSURED THAT REPORTS OF THE MASSACRE ««WILL BE AMONG THE TOPICS DISCUSSED.»»

THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE, RULED BY EMPEROR BOKASSA I, HAS RECEIVED $6.4 MILLION IN U.S. BILATERAL AID SINCE 1966, SHE SAID. NO AID WAS SOUGHT IN FISCAL YEAR 1979, SHE SAID.

ATTENTION WAS TURNED ON THE AFRICAN NATION AFTER THE FRENCH SECTION OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, A HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP, REPORTED THE CHILDREN WERE KILLED APRIL 18 BY SOLDIERS. THE CHILDREN WERE REPORTEDLY PROTESTING REGULATIONS THAT REQUIRED STUDENTS TO WEAR UNIFORMS.

BOKASSA«S GOVERNMENT DENIED THE REPORTS, BUT THE COUNTRY«S AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, SYLVESTRE BANGUI, CONFIRMED THE ACCOUNTS AND THEN SOUGHT POLITICAL ASYLUM IN FRANCE.

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